

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of automatically establishing a conference comprising ~~the steps of:~~

receiving conference logistics, wherein the conference logistics comprise a participant communication address;

receiving participant profile data, wherein the participant profile data comprises a current participant communication address;

allocating a conference bridge port to set up the conference in accordance with the conference logistics;

after allocating the conference bridge port to set up the conference,
extracting ~~[[a]]~~ the participant communication address ~~in accordance with~~ from the conference logistics;

after extracting the participant communication address, ~~if the participant profile data includes a current communication address that~~ the current participant communication address from the participant profile data differs from the participant communication address from the conference logistics, then updating the extracted participant communication address with the current participant communication address ~~in accordance with the participant profile data;~~

~~dialing a telephone number in accordance with the conference logistics and the profile data~~ initiating a connection to the conference based on the current participant communication address;

playing an option to accept or refuse ~~[[a]]~~ the connection to the conference; and

connecting a communications switch port to the allocated conference bridge port.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the conference logistics further comprises receiving a start date~~[[,]]~~ and a connect time ~~and the participant communication address.~~

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein allocating a bridge port is performed in accordance with ~~the current communication address~~ a number of conference participants in accordance with the conference logistics.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[5]] 1, wherein the communications switch port is associated with the current participant communication address.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[2]] 1, wherein the participant profile data comprises at least two of the current participant communication address, a home address, an office address, and a wireless address.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[6]] 1, wherein the communications switch port comprises a telephone switch port.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[8]] 1, wherein the participant communication address and the current participant communication address each comprises a telephone number.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[9]] 2, wherein ~~the step of~~ connecting a communications switch port to the allocated conference bridge port takes place in accordance with the start date and connect time reflected in the conference logistics.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[2]] 1, wherein the participant communication address comprises [[a]] an Internet Protocol (IP) address.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving conference logistics comprises receiving subsequent input to a DTMF menu.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving conference logistics comprises receiving a formatted file comprising labeled conference provisioning information.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving conference logistics comprises receiving subscriber input to a form displayed on a client device.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein a participant responds with a DTMF tone to accept or refuse a connection to the conference.

16. (Currently Amended) A method of automatically establishing a conference comprising ~~the steps of:~~

receiving conference logistics, wherein the conference logistics comprise a participant communication address;

receiving participant profile data, wherein the participant profile data comprises a current participant communication address;

creating a conference record in accordance with the conference logistics;
maintaining conference containers indicative of how the conference record will be processed;

allocating a conference bridge port to set up the conference in accordance with the conference logistics;

after allocating the conference bridge port to set up the conference,
extracting a participant communication address ~~in accordance with~~ from the conference logistics;

after extracting the participant communication address, if the ~~participant profile data includes a current communication address that~~ current participant communication address from the participant profile data differs from the participant communication address from the conference logistics, then updating the extracted participant communication address with the current participant communication address ~~in accordance with the participant profile data;~~

~~dialing a telephone number in accordance with the conference logistics and the profile data~~ initiating a connection to the conference based on the current participant communication address;

playing an option to accept or refuse ~~[[a]]~~ the connection to the conference; and

connecting a communications switch port to the allocated conference bridge port.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the conference containers indicate whether the conference record should be allocated the conference bridge port and connected immediately, whether the conference record should be allocated the conference bridge port only, or whether the conference record should be connected only.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein receiving the conference logistics ~~comprise~~ further comprises receiving a start date~~[[,]]~~ and a connect time ~~and the participant communication address.~~

19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein allocating a bridge port is performed in accordance with ~~the current communication address~~ a number of conference participants in accordance with the conference logistics.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the communications switch port is associated with the current participant communication address.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[18]]~~ 16, wherein the participant profile data comprises at least two of the current participant communication address, a home address, an office address, and a wireless address.

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[22]]~~ 16, wherein the communications switch port comprises a telephone switch port.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[24]]~~ 16, wherein the participant communication address and the current participant communication address each ~~comprise~~ comprises a telephone number.

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[25]]~~ 18, wherein ~~the step of~~ connecting a communications switch port to the allocated conference bridge port takes place in accordance with the start date and connect time reflected in the conference logistics.

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[18]]~~ 16, wherein the participant communication address comprises an Internet Protocol (IP) address.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein receiving conference logistics comprises receiving subscriber input to a DTMF menu.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein receiving conference logistics comprises receiving a formatted file comprising labeled conference provision information.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein receiving conference logistics comprises receiving subscriber input to a form displayed on a client device.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein a participant responds with a DTMF tone to accept or refuse a connection to the conference.